THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th July 1957.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—POINT OF ORDER *RE* SICK CLOCKS IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: On a point of order, Sir. There are three clocks in this hall. Two of them are just an apology for clocks. They are not visible. One in front of you is big enough to be easily visible. But it seems to have gone sick because I see bandages are put across it. What is the remedy for such of those who suffer from lesser visibility. I am not one such but . . .

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Just turn back and see.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: I am coming to that. But what about those who suffer from lesser visibility. What is the aid proposed to be given to them to know exactly the time when they should begin, when they should stop and things like that.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Use spectacles.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the time-limit for speeches is concerned, the Speaker will look after it. The bell will be rung when the time is up. For other purposes, hon. Members may consult their watches.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Appointment of Mechanical Engineer in the State Transport Department

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: On another point of order, Sir, regarding Short Notice Question No. 2. According to rules regulating the admisibility of questions to be asked, under Rule 31 (8) no question should be of a private or parochial character. Therefore is it in order to admit a question of the type now to be put by the hon. Member, Sri Ramaswamy?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a private grievance. It is a matter of public importance. Appointment to such a post is a matter of public importance. I have admitted it according to rules. The hon. Member is questioning the Speaker's decision on the matter.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: I am only bringing to the notice of the House this fact. The House should know under what category it has been admitted because it relates to a private person.

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MR. SPEAKER : The gentleman is not a private person. He is an officer in the Transport Department, a public officer and every hon. Member is entitled to ask for information about his appointment. It is open to the Hon. Minister to say he will not answer the question. So far as the question itself is concerned, it is admissible under the rules and therefore I have put it on the agenda. It is a matter, as I said, for the Hon. Minister not to answer the question. That is for him to decide.

Now we will take up short notice question No. 2.

2 *S.N. Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Sri Sundaresa Ayyar appointed as Mechanical Engineer in the State Transport Department with effect from 10th June 1957 is a qualified Mechanical Engineer;

(*b*) if not, the reasons for appointing him;

(*c*) whether this appointment was referred to the Public Service Commission;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one Sri Ananthakrishna Ayyar has been appointed recently as Personal Assistant to the Mechanical Engineer-*cum*-Stores Officer of the State Transport.

(*e*) his previous experience; and

(*f*) whether the post was referred to the Public Service Commission?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Sri Sundaresan holds a diploma in Automobile and High Speed Diesel Engineering issued by the British Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bombay. He possesses the prescribed experience of over 10 years in workshop organization and transport services. He has good practical experience in all branches of the Madras State Transport Department, as he has been working in that Department from its inception. He has acted twice as Mechanical Engineer previously. Prior to his joining the department he was working as Motor Vehicles Inspector and was subsequently in charge of a fleet of Government lorries under the control of the Civil Supplies Department and the Government Automobile Workshops where repairs to all Government vehicles were undertaken. He is the seniormost officer in the Madras State Transport Department in the Engineering side.

(*b*) The Government selected an officer with B.E., Degree for the post of Mechanical Engineer in the Madras State Transport Department. This officer soon after his joining the department expressed his inability to continue in the post due to domestic reasons and he was accordingly reverted to his parent department. Thereupon Government advertised the post on the scale of Rs. 750—1,200. Eleven applications were received in response to this advertisement but none of them possessed the qualifications prescribed. An attempt